deliver the above quantity of gas. the scope of the agreement also includes Bangladesh.

Wells drilled in Tripura

1179. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wells drilled in Tripura have the best success ratio of gas production in the country;

(b) if so, the steps by Government to explore and drill wells in Tripura; and

(c) whether oil has also been discovered in Tripura, besides gas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Presently, one seismic party and three drilling rigs of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are in operation in Western Tripura.

Under the Seventh Round Exploration Bidding, block AA-ON/3, falling in Tripura has been awarded by Government of India to M/s. Okland Oil Company, USA and M/s Rexwood Corporation, USA.

A Memorandum of Undertanding has been signed by ONGC with M/s. UNOCAL International Corporation, USA for joint study to investigate the commerical exploitation of established reserves and to determine the potential for new reserves in Tripura.

(c) So far no oil reserves have been discovered in Tripura.

Development of Infrastructure for IOC

1180. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government needs to develop infrastructure for the Indian Oil Corporation on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details of the plans, including the sources of finances;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IOC is planning to build a huge refinery at Panipat (Haryana); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Marketing permission to Foreign Companies

1181. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit foreign petroleum companies to operate in the marketing segment;

(b) if so, the details there of; and

(c) the names of the foreign companies who have shown interest for investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. In line with the liberalised economic policy of the Govt., private parties including national/multinationals were allowed to import and market some petroleum products like LPG, kerosene, LSHS and CBFS, lubricants at market determined prices.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Companies have formed joint venture companies for the development of various infrastructure facilitities for the import, storage, bottling and marketing of LPG and other petroleum products. The details of these Joint Venture Companies are as under:

(i) Indian Oil taking Ltd. : To provide infrastructure for storage of petroleum products in the country, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., and

IBP formed a JVC with Oil Tanking GMBH, Germany with 25%: 25%: 50% equity participation for putting up storage and terminaling facilities.

(ii) TOTAL SA of France with HPCL: for putting up Downstream petroleum activities initially focussing on the development of infrastructure for import and marketing of LPG and LNG.

(iii) EXXON International, USA: for development of infrastructure for import and marketing of LPG.

(iv) BPCL with M/s. Gujarat Gas: for putting up import facility of 200 TMTPA at Okha.

(v) BPC—SHELL: for putting up import and marketing facilities and marketing of lubricants and LPG.

(vi) IOC—MOBIL: for putting up LPG import and marketing facilitities for LPG.

(vii) AVI OIL INDIA LTD. : IOC has setup JVC with Nyco SA France and Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. for marketing lubricating oils.

(viii) INDO-MOBIL PVT. LTD. : A JVC with IOC & MOBIL Petroleum Co. Inc for marketing, blending of MOBIL brand of lubricants.

(ix) HPCL—EXXON: for technical tie up to blend ESSO brand automotive lubricants.

In addition to these the following foreign companies have entered into marketing of lubricating oil having tie up with Public/private companies:

IBP CO. LTD.	—CALTEX
BALMER LAWRIE	—FUCHS
TIDE WATER OIL COMPANY	—MITSUBISHI

The following JVCs have been formed for other petroleum products:

(i) HINDUSTAN COLAS LTD.: For manufacture and marketing of bitumen emulsion in India.

The Govt. has also encouraged private sector for development of product pipelines, tankage for petroleum products, LPG bottling plants and other infrastructure for import and handling of LPG and other petroleum products:

(i) M/s AGIO, Singapore: The party has been given FIPB clearance for putting up POL/LPG import/handling facilities at Paradeep.

(ii) M/SPIC: The party has developed and commissioned LPG import facilities at Tuticorin, Tamilnadu.

(iii) M/s. Shakti LPG have developed and commisioned LPG import faciliites at Kakinada, AP.

(iv) M/s. Peevees are developing their import facilities at Calicut, Kerala.

(v) M/s FEENA PETRO PRODUCTS have plans for putting up LPG import facilities either at Cuddalore or at Krishnapatnam (AP).

(vi) M/s FORESIGHT LTD. has received FIPB approval for creating storage tank farm for crude and petroleum products in Gujarat.

एच० बी० जे० पाइप लाइन का विस्तार

1182. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार एच० बी० जे० पाइप लाइन का बिहार तक विस्तार करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालू): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) एच० बी० जे० व्यवस्था के आसपास गैस का आवंटन उपलब्धता की तुलना में पहले ही बहुत अधिक